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Rayati

"Rayati" is the universal greeting in Aristasia. It means "Hail to the Sun (in you)".

The word is actually the salutation-form of *Raya*, meaning the (angel of the) Sun.

It is a greeting addressed to the Divine Essence, or Solar Heart in each person. It is used to begin and end a meeting or encounter, like both "hello" and "goodbye" (though hello and goodbye are sometimes used as well). In Aristasian speech, making this greeting is termed "Giving (someone) Rayati". In other words, idiomatically, Rayati is "given" rather than "said".

The greeting "Rayati" is normally accompanied by making a Reverence.

To a traditional Aristasian, a meeting with a friend, or friends constitutes a special state, almost a very informal ritual (just as eating a meal at a table, or visiting a person's house is a ritual). The word "Rayati" is the opening and closing word of that ritual. Any words said after the closing "Rayati" are regarded as a sort of postscript. Occasionally in the West, and in very informal company, the greeting is omitted (this is regarded by traditional people as a sign of Westrenne decadence), but if it is given by either party, failure to respond with "Rayati" is an immense gaffe and could even be seen as an insult.

Among Military personnel and on some formal occasions, the greeting is "Rayati Raihiranya" ("Hail to the Empress as an incarnation of the Sun"). This might also be said at, say, a school assembly where the mistress conducting would greet the assembly with it, and the girls would reply in unison. When a civilian is greeted by a member of the military with "Rayati Raihiranya" it is usual to give the civilian response "Rayati", but it is perfectly in order to reply "Rayati Raihiranya". Occasionally this is shortened to "Raya" among the military — normally only when addressing each other. It is rare for a civilian to use "Raya" as a salutation, even when so saluted.

This "Raya" which is a shortening of "Rayati" sounds

different from "Raya" meaning "Sun" or "Lady", because the final "a" ends sharply with a glottal stop (think of a Cockney saying "rayat").

"Rayati Raihiranya" is also a kind of loyal motto that may be placed at the end of a statement or may be used in a variety of other contexts such as school assemblies. Some Aristasians have "Rayati Raihiranya" as the start-up message for their portable telephones. It may also be given as a loyal toast before drinking.

Created by: miss_serena. Last Modification: Friday 13 of March, 2009 10:45:25 EDT by miss_serena.

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